



**Missouri S&T Faculty Funding
Booklet
Volume 3: Corporate Foundations
and Private Philanthropy
(March 2026)**

A curated guide to philanthropic funding aligned to Missouri S&T strengths

At Missouri S&T, our mission is to accelerate discovery and innovation that advance society, strengthen the nation's economy and security, and educate the next generation of STEM leaders. This Corporate Foundations and Private Philanthropy Funding Booklet was designed to help you navigate high-value sponsors whose priorities align with S&T's core strengths.

Inside, you will find concise overviews of major funders, the types of activities they typically support, how to apply, and general information on how to engage. We have linked directly to official resources to ensure you can move from idea to action quickly.

Our Proposal Development Unit and the broader Division of Research and Innovation stand ready to support you, from early ideation and team formation to strategic reviews and complex, multi-institution proposals. I invite you to engage with our team early and often. Together, we will continue elevating S&T's impact as a nationally prominent R1 research university.



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Introduction

Private and corporate philanthropic foundations play an essential role in advancing academic research. They can catalyze bold, early-stage, or interdisciplinary ideas that may be too exploratory for federal programs, and they often invest in people, platforms, and collaborations that increase the long-term impact of discovery.

Many foundations use streamlined processes, such as a short concept note or letter of inquiry (LOI), which can make efficient entry points for launching new research directions. Nonetheless, expectations for clarity, rigor, and alignment to mission remain high.

Coordinate early with University Advancement by contacting the [Office of Development](#) to ensure strategic stewardship, avoid conflicts with existing relationships, and leverage prior engagements. Route all submissions with deliverables through the Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) for budget, compliance, and terms review; involve the Technology Transfer Economic Development (TTED) Office when IP, software, data rights, or commercialization are in scope. Agreements that provide gifts only (no deliverables) generally route through University Advancement.

Keep in mind: some foundations restrict indirect costs or claim certain rights; publication timing may involve brief sponsor review; and limited-submission rules may apply. Early planning with PDU, OSP, and Advancement helps keep proposals competitive and compliant.

Part I — Private Foundations

Simons Foundation

Official link: [Simons Foundation](#)

Organization Overview:

The Simons Foundation advances the frontiers of research in mathematics and the basic sciences through investigator programs, centers, and large-scale collaborations. It supports discovery in mathematics, physics, life sciences, neuroscience, and autism research (via SFARI), and operates the Flatiron Institute for computational science.

Simons emphasizes curiosity-driven inquiry and deep intellectual collaboration, often convening multi-institution teams to tackle foundational questions.

Overview of Funding Interests:

- Mathematics & Physical Sciences (including theoretical work)
- Life Sciences and Neuroscience
- Autism research via SFARI; cross-cutting collaborations
- Conference/course support and select fellowships

How to apply:

- Opportunities and RFAs are posted on the Funding Opportunities page; many require an LOI submitted via the Simons Award Manager (SAM).
- Coordinate with PDU for limited submission and OSP for institutional components; align with division-specific guidance.

Wellcome Trust

Official link: [Wellcome Trust](#)

Organization Overview:

Wellcome is a global charitable foundation based in the U.K. that funds discovery research and tackles worldwide health challenges. It invests across discovery science as well as the strategic areas of infectious disease, mental health, and climate & health.

Wellcome supports researchers at multiple career stages and funds teams pursuing transformative health-related research with global impact.

Overview of Funding Interests:

- Discovery Research across life/health
- Climate & Health
- Infectious Disease
- Mental Health
- Public engagement and policy initiatives tied to health

How to apply:

- Calls and guidance are published on Wellcome's site; applications are submitted through the Wellcome Funding Platform.
- U.S. eligibility varies by scheme; consult scheme pages and route proposals through Advancement and OSP. Major career awards are not typically available to US organizations.

Alfred P. Sloan Foundation

Official link: [Alfred P. Sloan Foundation](#)

Organization Overview:

The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation supports original research and education in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and economics. It is known for strengthening research infrastructure, advancing data-intensive discovery, and broadening public understanding of science.

Sloan also recognizes outstanding early-career faculty through the Sloan Research Fellowships and runs thematic initiatives in higher education and technology.

Overview of Funding Interests:

- STEM higher education and broadening participation
- Data & computational research; scholarly communication; open knowledge
- Public understanding of science, technology, and economics
- Select topic-based RFAs (e.g., energy systems, R&D returns)

How to apply:

- Most programs begin with an emailed Letter of Inquiry (LOI) to the relevant program director; some initiatives are invitation-only.
- Coordinate with OSP; note that Sloan does not accept unsolicited full proposals.

W. M. Keck Foundation

Official link: [W. M. Keck Foundation](#)

Organization Overview:

The W. M. Keck Foundation funds pioneering science, engineering, and medical research with high-risk, high-reward potential that is typically too early for federal support.

Keck's process emphasizes internal institutional selection and pre-application concept counseling with Keck program officers through a designated liaison.

Overview of Funding Interests:

- Transformative basic science and engineering
- Novel methodologies
- Projects outside typical federal sponsor missions

How to apply:

- Limited submission with two institutional slots per cycle; begin with concept counseling via the institutional liaison, Cynthia Choate (cynthia.choate@mst.edu).
- Two-phase application (Phase I/Phase II) with strict formatting; coordinate early with PDU and OSP.

John Templeton Foundation

Official link: [John Templeton Foundation](#)

Organization Overview:

The John Templeton Foundation funds interdisciplinary research and public engagement on “big questions,” spanning character virtue development, life sciences, mathematical & physical sciences, religion-science-society, public engagement, and individual freedom & free markets.

Templeton invests in bold, contrarian ideas that cross disciplinary boundaries and catalyze new conversations and knowledge.

Overview of Funding Interests:

- Character Virtue Development
- Mathematical & Physical Sciences
- Life Sciences
- Religion, Science, & Society
- Public Engagement; Individual Freedom & Free Markets

How to apply:

- Two-stage process starts with an Online Funding Inquiry (OFI) followed by a full proposal by invitation.
- Coordinate with Advancement and OSP for timelines, budgets, and any co-funding requirements.

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation

Official link: [The David and Lucile Packard Foundation](#)

Organization Overview:

Packard supports people and organizations working to ensure a just and equitable future for people and nature, and it nurtures scientific discovery, most notably through the Packard Fellowships for Science and Engineering that provide flexible support to exceptional early-career faculty.

The foundation also invests in climate solutions and ocean health alongside fellowships that advance basic research.

Overview of Funding Interests:

- Packard Fellowships for Science & Engineering (invited institutions only – S&T not typically eligible)
- Climate and ocean science initiatives; select science discovery efforts

How to apply:

- Most research-oriented opportunities are invitation-only (e.g., Fellowships). S&T individuals may be eligible for broader philanthropy depending on the particular program. Coordinate with Advancement regarding nominations and with OSP on budgets.

Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation

Official link: [Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation](#)

Organization Overview:

The Moore Foundation advances scientific discovery, environmental conservation, and the special character of the San Francisco Bay Area, often through large, multi-year investments with measurable outcomes.

Its Science program backs curiosity-driven research and technology/platform development; other programs support conservation and patient care.

Overview of Funding Interests:

- Curiosity-driven basic science (physics, astronomy, biology)
- Technology & instrumentation; data-driven discovery
- Environment (oceans, biodiversity); patient care initiatives

How to apply:

- Moore is largely invitation-only; monitor program pages for targeted opportunities and coordinate with Advancement for alignment and stewardship.

Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation

Official link: [Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation](#)

Organization Overview:

The Beckman Foundation accelerates discovery in chemistry and the life sciences, with a distinctive emphasis on methods, instruments, and materials that open new avenues of research.

Notable programs include the Beckman Young Investigator Awards, Arnold O. Beckman Postdoctoral Fellowships, and the Beckman Scholars Program.

Overview of Funding Interests:

- Early-career investigator awards (chemistry/life sciences)
- Instrumentation and method development; undergraduate scholars programs

How to apply:

- Follow program-specific CFPs and portals; S&T individuals are typically eligible for the Young Investigator program, but the Scholars program is invitation-only. Consult PDU for limited submissions and OSP for compliance and budget requirements.

The Kavli Foundation

Official link: [The Kavli Foundation](#)

Organization Overview:

The Kavli Foundation advances science for the benefit of humanity with focus areas in astrophysics, nanoscience, neuroscience, and science-in-society. It supports Kavli Institutes worldwide and targeted programs such as Kavli Scholars.

Overview of Funding Interests:

- Basic research in astrophysics, nanoscience, neuroscience; science & society
- Institute-linked fellowships and bridge-funding mechanisms

How to apply:

- Many opportunities are nomination-based through Kavli Institutes; however, they occasionally issue open calls. Consider partnering with a Kavli Institute.

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

Official link: [Andrew W. Mellon Foundation](#)

Organization Overview:

The Mellon Foundation is the largest supporter of the arts and humanities in the U.S., with grantmaking in Higher Learning, Public Knowledge, Humanities in Place, and Arts & Culture. While humanities-focused, select programs intersect with data curation, archives, and public engagement relevant to STEM history and society.

Overview of Funding Interests:

- Higher Learning; Public Knowledge; Humanities in Place; Arts & Culture

How to apply:

- Primarily invitation-only; monitor program pages for initiatives; coordinate with PDU for concept alignment and with OSP for routing.

Part II — Corporate Philanthropy

Google.org

Official link: [Google.org](https://www.google.org)

Organization Overview:

Google.org is Google’s philanthropic arm, funding tech-for-good initiatives globally with a focus on digital equity, climate action, and crisis response.

Select calls may engage universities where academic expertise or scalable technology solutions advance social impact.

Overview of Funding Interests:

- Digital inclusion; climate & sustainability; crisis response; AI for social good

How to apply:

- Apply via initiative-specific RFPs when open; projects often require strong partnerships and measurable outcomes; coordinate with Advancement and/or OSP.

Microsoft Philanthropies

Official link: [Microsoft Philanthropies](#)

Organization Overview:

Microsoft Philanthropies supports digital skills, accessibility, and AI for Good initiatives. Some programs provide cloud credits, technical resources, or grants to advance societal solutions.

Overview of Funding Interests:

- AI for Good; accessibility; digital inclusion; skilling and nonprofit support

How to apply:

- Apply through program-specific portals and timelines; align outcomes and data use with university policies; route through Advancement and/or OSP.

Cisco Foundation

Official link: [Cisco Foundation](#)

Organization Overview:

The Cisco Foundation funds climate solutions, crisis response, and digital inclusion through grants that emphasize measurable community impact and technology-enabled scale.

Overview of Funding Interests:

- Climate resilience; crisis response; digital inclusion; nonprofit capacity building

How to apply:

- Monitor Cisco Foundation Calls for Proposals; some opportunities are invitation-only; coordinate with Advancement and/or OSP.

Part III — Resources & Support at Missouri S&T

Proposal Development Unit (PDU): Early strategy, concept development, team formation, internal timelines, narrative reviews, red team, and proposal project management.

Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP): Budgeting, compliance, routing, and agreement review/negotiation (including IP, publication, and indirect cost terms) for agreements with deliverables.

University Advancement: Coordinates outreach to private foundations and corporate philanthropies; manages stewardship and institutional relationships. Manages awards that are gifts only (no deliverables).

Technology Transfer & Economic Development: Advises on IP protection, invention disclosure, licensing, software/data rights, and commercialization considerations.

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About the Proposal Development Unit (PDU): The PDU partners with faculty to find opportunities, strategize pursuits, build competitive teams, develop proposal narratives and budgets, coordinate complex submissions, and provide red-team reviews. Services include capture planning, concept-to-solicitation alignment, editing, securing graphics support, templates, and project management for center-scale proposals. The PDU compiled this booklet and asks faculty to email shauba@mst.edu with any updates, additions, or corrections pertinent to the broader campus community.

About the Division of Research and Innovation: The Division advances S&T's research enterprise and innovation ecosystem. The office provides pre- and post-award support, research development, center and institute facilitation, core facilities, technology commercialization, industry partnerships, and entrepreneurship programming.

About Missouri S&T: A nationally prominent R1 public technological research university, Missouri S&T is renowned for strength in engineering, computing, materials, manufacturing, infrastructure, energy, environmental resilience, and applied sciences. Our faculty, students, and partners collaborate to deliver discoveries and solutions that benefit Missouri, the nation, and the world.